

Inspection 98 to showcase JSC technologies

Attendees from throughout the world will be able to explore NASA-developed technologies when JSC opens its doors to host Inspection 98 for three days, October 14-16. The third annual event brings together thousands of private industry, business, government, community and education leaders to explore firsthand the programs, activities, facilities and technologies that make human space exploration a reality.

More than 2,400 visitors from 45 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and 13 foreign countries attended Inspection 97. This year, with more than 200 exhibits and presentations scheduled, the event offers expanded opportunities for what is expected to be an even larger number of visitors.

NASA/JSC Inspection 98 will showcase the space shuttle and

International Space Station programs, Mars studies and the space-age technologies and expertise that make them possible. Technical exhibits will encompass many disciplines and topics including aeronautics and aviation, aerospace mechanisms, astronaut training, education and outreach, human factors, human life support and tools, imaging technologies, materials and manufacturing, measurement technologies and scientific instruments, medicine and healthcare, power and propulsion, robotics and virtual reality and technology transfer.

"Much of the work we do – from propulsion and avionics to telemedicine and robotics – has potential commercial applications," said Kathy Jurica, Inspection 98 chair. "Many attendees of past Inspection days have found technological applications in the life sciences and other fields that they have since put to use in their own work."

Justin Kerr, manager of the Hypervelocity Impact Technology Facility at JSC, holds up a simulated whipple shield. On exhibit during Inspection 97, this shield is used to stop orbital debris from damaging spacecraft. It consists of an aluminum bumper placed some distance in front of the outer wall of a spacecraft. The whipple shield is designed to shock approaching projectiles and break them into small fragments. An expanding debris cloud is produced that spreads the energy of impact over a much larger area, making it much less damaging.



JSC Photo S97-15213



JSC Photo S97-16529

Inspection 97 host Dean Eppler (right) and a guest discuss U.S. research planned for the International Space Station.

We envision that this year's event will not only continue but indeed accelerate this trend."

Attendees will be able to explore technologies they may be able to use in the fields of information technology, biotechnology, energy, architecture, agriculture, medicine, robotics and industrial automation, transportation and manufacturing, to name only a few. Forums will explain how to use NASA technologies to meet regional and national challenges.

To highlight major points of interest and to draw visitors to all sites across the center, JSC will be divided into three major areas or "hubs" plus two off-site facilities, the Sonny Carter Training Facility and Ellington Field, during Inspection 98. Buildings 5, 9 and 13 have been designated as hubs. Guest services available at each hub include information booths, coffee services, phone bank facilities and limited food service.

In conjunction with Inspection 98, a mission briefing by shuttle/Mir commanders and others is planned on the evening of October 14 at Space Center Houston. The event is open to the public; seating is limited. ■



JSC Photo S97-15309

Inspection 97 attendees caught a glimpse of the NASA Arc Jet Test Facility at JSC. The high temperature aerodynamic wind tunnel test is used to test materials that will be used on shuttle upgrades, advanced flight vehicles such as the X-38 and rocket and nose-cone reentry vehicles.

Employee participation key to making Inspection 98 a success

To ensure that Inspection 98 is successful again this year, the participation of every JSC employee is needed. Here is a list of questions that employees usually ask about this event:

Why does JSC host Inspection days?

For three days each year, JSC displays its space flight technologies and techniques to leaders of government, industry and academia who might not otherwise interact with the aerospace community. Inspection days offer JSC the opportunity to showcase work performed to support this nation's human space flight program and to transfer space technology into commercial industries.

Why should JSC employees participate in Inspection 98?

To have a successful event, the participation of every employee is needed. JSC employees will have the opportunity to draw from the experience of individuals who work in many industries to find innovative approaches to their own challenges and to identify areas where partnerships could be mutually advantageous.

Who is the target audience?

The target audience is professionals from government, industry, academia and the community. The event is not recommended for children.

What is the proper attire for exhibitors?

Business dress is required for all exhibitors.

How do I volunteer?

Employees who would like to participate on a committee or volunteer to help their organization should contact their directorate/office point-of-contact.

Will training be provided for volunteers?

Training for new volunteers will be held from 1 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. Oct. 6 in the Teague Auditorium. Refresher training sessions for those who have previously volunteered for Inspection days will be held from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. Oct. 6 and 7 in the Teague Auditorium.

How do I obtain an exhibitor's badge?

If you have not yet received your badge, contact your directorate/office point-of-contact or the Inspection office.

Will employee parking be affected during Inspection 98?

Employee parking will not be affected during the event except for those who park near Bldgs. 9, 31 and 37. The parking lot for displaced employees who work in these buildings is the large parking lot between Bldg. 44 and Second Street. Mini-buses will run continuously from 6:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. to take employees to and from their buildings.

How do I obtain more information about Inspection 98?

Visit the Inspection 98 web page at <http://inspection.jsc.nasa.gov>, or check out the internal web page at <http://www4.jsc.nasa.gov/inspection/>, or call the Inspection 98 office at x41316. ■